



## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Pine Mountain Lake Fuel Break		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	T1S, R16E – 18, 19, 20 T1S, R17E – 1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13	<b>COUNTY</b>	Tuolumne
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
<b>CONTACT</b>	Steve Hollett, Unit Forester	<b>PHONE</b>	(209) 754-3831
<b>ADDRESS</b>	785 Mt. Ranch Rd., San Andreas, CA 95249		

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project is to conduct mechanical fuel reduction within designated segments of this strategic fire defense system. Approximately 80% of the project area is currently in a defensible condition since it is pasture or agricultural. The objective of this project is to treat hazardous fuels on small segments, totaling approximately 120 acres, of this established fuel break. These segments are made up of dense brush and oak woodland patches. Work consists of tractor piling of "ladder fuels", primarily brush and small trees to create a defensible shaded fuel break. Piles will be burned at a later time in accordance with a permit issued by the APCD. Immediately following piling operations, areas will be seeded with an approved weed free dry-land grass mix. Seeding will be done in order to recapture the site and minimize resprouting of undesired brush and live oak. Where grass production is not the landowner's primary objective, mechanical mastication may be used. Mastication will treat ladder fuels by shredding vegetation to an average level of less than 6". In certain areas, residual trees may be pruned to a height of 8' or more. No overstory trees will be removed.

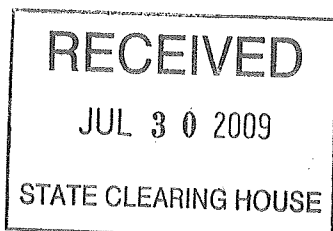
### EXEMPTION STATUS


- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class §15304 – Minor Alteration to Land  
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):  
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)  
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))  
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

Project does not involve the removal of healthy, mature or scenic trees. Project will result in improvement in wildlife habitat. Project activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion or sedimentation of surface waters. No soil disturbance will occur near riparian areas or streams. All elderberry plants will be retained. Protection measures for documented cultural resources are contained in a confidential archaeological report. All burning will be done in accordance with a burn permit from the Tuolumne County APCD.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



  
William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date 7/30/09